

File Reference No. 0335
Serial No. 10/660,316

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A product carrying and storage device comprising:
 - a) a bag having ~~an~~ a substantially rectangularly shaped opening at a top portion thereof and at least first and second having one or more handles attached to said bag adjacent to said opening at respective first and second sides of said opening; and
 - b) a bag topper having a bottom panel and four side panels defining a substantially rectangularly shaped opening sized to receive said top portion of said bag and thereby substantially close said opening of said bag in an assembled condition of said bag and topper, said topper having openings along at least two sides of said bottom panel for receiving said at least first and second handles in said assembled condition one or more handle openings wherein said one or more handles of said bag can each be passed through said one or more handle openings to attach said topper to said bag and said topper substantially covers the entirety of said opening.
2. (currently amended) The device described in claim 1 wherein said bag has front and rear panel members ~~panels~~ and a pair of gusseted side panel members ~~panels~~ connecting said front and rear panel members ~~panels~~ and a flat-style folded ~~and glued~~ bottom panel member connected to said front and rear panel members ~~panels~~ and said side panel members, said side panel members being foldable panels are constructed to move between a substantially flat folded storage position condition wherein adjacent said front and or said rear panel members and said bottom panel member are is substantially parallel and adjacent to said front and rear panels and said side panels.
3. (canceled)
4. (currently amended) The device described in claim 3 wherein said bag is made from paper and said topper device is made from cardboard.
5. (currently amended) The device described in claim 3 wherein said bag has two handles and said topper device has two handle openings.

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6. (canceled)
7. (currently amended) The device described in claim 3 wherein said topper device is formed from a single sheet of material having portions around the perimeter thereof being foldable of said top layer that are folded to form said ~~front and rear panels and said~~ side panels and wherein each of two said side panels also includes two flaps that are foldable and attachable to respective adjacent fold and are attached to said side front and rear panels to define said rectangularly shaped opening of said topper respectively.
8. (currently amended) The device described in claim 7 wherein said handle openings are defined formed in said single sheet of material by ~~creating a partial~~ cuts along at least two sides of said bottom member out that results in handle guide material from said top panel being pivoted in continuity with said front and rear panels as the perimeter portions of said single sheet of material are folded thereby creating said handle opening in the evacuated area of said handle guide material.
9. (currently amended) A method of forming and using a product carrying and storage device comprising the steps of:
- a) providing unfolding a bag having front and rear panel members panels and a pair of side panel members panels attached to a bottom panel member, said front, rear and side panel members defining a substantially rectangularly shaped opening at a top end of said bag, and having at least one with two handles, one handle each being respectively attached to said front and rear panel members panels of said bag;
 - b) providing unfolding a topper device having front and rear panels and a pair of side panels attached to a top panel, said front, rear and side panels defining a substantially rectangularly shaped opening for receiving said top end of said bag, and having with two handle openings defined in on the sides of said top panel for receiving a respective said handle located adjacent to said front and rear panels; and
 - c) inserting said at least one handle handles through respective said handle openings of said topper to define an assembled condition of to place said topper and device on said bag.

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10. (original) The method described in claim 9 wherein prior to said inserting step the method further comprises the step of placing a product into said bag.
11. (currently amended) The method described in claim 10 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:
 - a) removing said topper from said bag device by pulling said topper handle openings off of said handles; and
 - b) inverting ~~turning~~ said topper ~~device upside down~~ so that said top panel is located beneath said front and rear panels and said side panels of said topper ~~device~~ to define a tray having a bottom defined by said top panel; and
 - c) using said topper ~~device~~ as a tray for said product ~~products~~ in said bag.